

***A Minor Consideration
Kid Actors,
Past & Present***
www.minorcon.org

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EPA HEARING
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 UCLA
 COVEL COMMONS

REMARKS REGARDING THE HOME ENVIRONMENT

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I would like to thank our Chair and distinguished guests for allowing a person known for advocacy on behalf of working children to weigh in on what may seem to many to be an unusual leap of competing interests.

The very last thing I want to be is another Hollywood-type voicing an opinion on a subject in which my credentials are lacking. We've had far too much of that in recent days.

We do, however, have experts
Edward Albert, Jr. *Dennis Weaver.* *Mitch Ryan* *Celebrity Help*

I am here because, at the end of my working day in my real life as a fifty-seven year old man, I come home to an 80 year old mother, recently moved from an assisted care facility, an 87 year old mother-in-law, and an 88 year-old Aunt in the second stages of Alzheimer Disease, and the environment in which these three grand ladies live is of no small consequence to me...personally.

Senior Strike Team

Years ago a friend of mine from Kentucky, Rob Case, whose business was reclaiming the mounds of mine tailings in his home state, first informed me of the concept of "total chemical body load." I was reintroduced to this concept when I entered the Dental Amalgam debate...the use of mercury in so-called silver dental fillings...a worry that still is unresolved to my satisfaction.

Much of our Senior population lives in growing confinement, often not by choice but by circumstance, and it is to that Environment within their homes that I wish to speak today.

Keeping in mind the concept of "total body load," let me share my worries about the chemical soup in which we all live today. Recent news reports regarding the rise of molds and spores in our homes and the consequent health problems were brought home to me by the circumstances of another former kid star, Julia Benjamin who, though not a Senior yet (she may never admit to that status) recently moved out of an apartment in Playa del Rey that was promptly tagged by the Health Department as a health risk due to the aforementioned 'molds and spores' present in the building she occupied for seven years. *I have witnessed her deteriorating health.*

It is not hard to connect the dots when one realizes that the Interior Environment...our homes, businesses, and work places...may be subject to as much as fives times the levels of pollution found outside...and for Seniors, this poses many unanswered questions.

Like many of you I nightly watch as the three older women in my life take their medications for a variety of ailments, and I find myself asking this question: In addition to the drug interactions, what is the total body load when combined with the chemical agents we all use...from household solvents and cleaning agents, to chemicals we apply to our gardens? And what, if any, is the multiplying factor when one adds in a closed environment?

Many Seniors find themselves house-bound, perhaps in homes they have owned for fifty years or more that may still be affected by lead-based paints or asbestos insulation. Moreover, they may not be getting out as much as they used to...and I believe it is a fair question to ask if there are additional health risks associated with their inactivity.

I realize that many today will speak and have spoken to the much larger macro-environmental issues...our air, our water, our food...but I wanted to raise the issue on the interior environmental concerns as they relate one to another in that place where most Seniors spend most of their time...at home...with an appeal to study more thoroughly the combined risks of interacting medications and perfectly ordinary household chemicals.

Thank you for allowing me this time to speak to what I fear will be a growing concern in the coming years.